AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-5. Cancelled.

6. (Currently Amended) An authentication system ~~according to claim 3, further being adapted to~~for transmitting information, said authentication system storing identification information of a plurality of providing users and a plurality of receiving users and being adapted to

receive information from at least one of said providing users;

authenticate said at least one providing user;

transmit a message including said information via a mobile communications network to a receiving user's mobile terminal;

provide a public/private key pair valid only for a single communication between the authentication system and said receiving user; wherein said communication comprises a message and/or a response to said message;

send said public key to said receiving user terminal prior to said communication and store said public key in said mobile terminal; and ~~to~~

encrypt at least part of said message using said public/private key pair.

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7. (Currently Amended) An authentication system ~~according to claim~~ ~~3,~~ for transmitting information, said authentication system storing identification information of a plurality of providing users and a plurality of receiving users and being adapted to

receive information from at least one of said providing users;

authenticate said at least one providing user;

transmit a message including said information via a mobile communications network to a receiving user's mobile terminal;

~~further being adapted to~~ extract a public key specific to said receiving user from said stored identification information; and ~~to~~

use said further public key for encryption of said at least part of said message.

8-9. Cancelled.

10. (Currently Amended) An authentication system ~~according to claim~~ ~~9,~~ for transmitting information, said authentication system storing identification information of a plurality of providing users and a plurality of receiving users and being adapted to

receive information from at least one of said providing users;

authenticate said at least one providing user;

transmit a message including said information via a mobile communications network to a receiving user's mobile terminal;

receive an acknowledgement message or a response message from said receiving user; and

transmit a confirmation message to said one providing user based upon said acknowledgement or response message;

wherein said confirmation message requires an acknowledgement message from said one providing user and said authentication system further being adapted to send a confirmation message to said receiver user's terminal, notifying the terminal to decrypt and display the decrypted part of said message.

11-19. Cancelled.

20.   (Currently Amended)   A method ~~according to claim 18,~~ of transmitting a message via a mobile telecommunications network from a sender's device to a user's terminal,

wherein the user is required to acknowledge receipt of said message in a predetermined way and an acknowledgement message is subsequently transmitted to the sender of said message;

wherein at least a portion of the text message is encrypted by the sender's device before tnrasmission and decrypted by the receiving terminal before display;

wherein the text message comprises a first portion including the body of said message and a second portion containing encryption data used for encryption of said body and required for decryption of data included in said body; and

wherein authentication data provided by the receiving user and/or response data to said message are encrypted using said encryption data.

21-27. Cancelled.

28.   (Currently Amended) A method ~~according to claim 27,~~ of transmitting a message via a mobile telecommunications network from a sender's device to a user's terminal,

wherein the user is required to acknowledge receipt of said message in a predetermined way and an acknowledgement message is subsequently transmitted to the sender of said message;

wherein in said sender's device and in said receiving user's terminal a

transaction reference counter is implemented and wherein each of said transaction

reference counters is incremented if a message is successfully received; and

wherein a transaction reference is included in every message transmitter

from the receiving user to the sender.

29.   (Original) A method according to claim 28, wherein said sender

compares the received transaction reference with its transaction reference counter

and the sender only responds if the received transaction reference matches the

sender's transaction reference counter.

30-32. Cancelled.

33.   (New) An authentication system for transmitting information, said

authentication system storing identification information of a plurality of providing

users and a plurality of receiving users and being adapted to

receive information from at least one of said providing users;

authenticate said at least one providing user; and

transmit a message including said information via a mobile

communications network to a receiving user's mobile terminal;

further being adapted to

provide a public/private key pair valid only for a single communication

between the authentication system and said receiving user,

wherein said communication comprises a message and/or a response to said

message;

encrypt at least part of said message using said public/private key pair; and

to

send said public key to said receiving user as part of said message.

34. (New) An authentication system according to claim 33 further being

adapted to authenticate a receiving user as the recipient of said information.

35. (New) An authentication system according to claim 33 further being

adapted to extract a public key specific to said receiving user from said stored

identification information and to use said further public key for encryption of said

at least part of said message.

36. (New) An authentication system according to claim 33 further being

adapted to receive an acknowledgement message or a response message from said

receiving user.

37.   (New) An authentication system according to claim 36 further being

adapted to transmit a confirmation message to said one providing user based upon

said acknowledgement or response message.

38.   (New) An authentication system according to claim 37 wherein said

confirmation message requires an acknowledgement message from said one

providing user and said authentication system further being adapted to send a

confirmation message to said receiver user's terminal, notifying the terminal to

decrypt and display the decrypted part of said message.

39.   (new) An authentication system according to claim 34 wherein said

user is required to authenticate himself by providing authentication data.

40.   (New) An authentication system according to claim 34 wherein said

user's terminal automatically generates said acknowledgement message upon

supply of said authentication data and/or response data.

41.   (new) An authentication system according to claim 34 wherein a

central authentication system verifies the user's authentication.

42.   (New) An authentication system according to claim 34 wherein said

message or a portion thereof is only displayed to the receiving user if the receiving

user provides a valid authentication.

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43.   (New) An authentication system according to claim 33 wherein said message is a SMS message according to the GSM standard.

44.   (New) An authentication system according to claim 33 wherein in said sender's device and in said receiving user's terminal a transaction reference counter is implemented and wherein each of said transaction reference counters is incremented if a message is successfully received.

45.   (New) An authentication system according to claim 44 wherein a transaction reference is included in every message transmitter from the receiving user to the sender.

46.   (New) An authentication system according to claim 45 wherein said sender compares the received transaction reference with its transaction reference counter and the sender only responds if the received transaction reference matches the sender's transaction reference counter.

47.   (New) An electronic commerce system incorporating an authentication system according to claim 33.

48.   (New) An electronic voting system incorporating an authentication system according to claim 33.

49.　(New) An authentication system for transmitting information, said authentication system storing identification information of a plurality of providing users and a plurality of receiving users and being adapted to

receive information from at least one of said providing users;

authenticate said at least one providing user; and

transmit a message including said information via a mobile communications network to a receiving user's mobile terminal;

further being adapted to

provide a public/private key pair valid only for a single communication between the authentication system and said receiving user;

wherein said communication comprises a message and/or a response to said message;

send said public key to said receiving user terminal prior to said communication and store said public key in said mobile terminal; and to

encrypt at least part of said message using said public/private key pair.

50.　(New) An authentication system according to claim 49 further being adapted to authenticate a receiving user as the recipient of said information.

51.   (New) An authentication system according to claim 49 further being adapted to extract a public key specific to said receiving user from said stored identification information and to use said further public key for encryption of said at least part of said message.

52.   (New) An authentication system according to claim 33 further being adapted to receive an acknowledgement message or a response message from said receiving user.

53.   (New) An authentication system according to claim 52 further being adapted to transmit a confirmation message to said one providing user based upon said acknowledgement or response message.

54.   (New) An authentication system according to claim 53 wherein said confirmation message requires an acknowledgement message from said one providing user and said authentication system further being adapted to send a confirmation message to said receiver user's terminal, notifying the terminal to decrypt and display the decrypted part of said message.

55.   (New) An authentication system according to claim 50 wherein said user is required to authenticate himself by providing authentication data.

56. (New) An authentication system according to claim 50 wherein said user's terminal automatically generates said acknowledgement message upon supply of said authentication data and/or response data.

57. (New) An authentication system according to claim 50 wherein a central authentication system verifies the user's authentication.

58. (New) An authentication system according to claim 50 wherein said message or a portion thereof is only displayed to the receiving user if the receiving user provides a valid authentication.

59. (New) An authentication system according to claim 33 wherein said message is a SMS message according to the GSM standard.

60. (New) An authentication system according to claim 33 wherein in said sender's device and in said receiving user's terminal a transaction reference counter is implemented and wherein each of said transaction reference counters is incremented if a message is successfully received.

61. (New) An authentication system according to claim 60 wherein a transaction reference is included in every message transmitter from the receiving user to the sender.

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62. (New) An authentication system according to claim 61 wherein said sender compares the received transaction reference with its transaction reference counter and the sender only responds if the received transaction reference matches the sender's transaction reference counter.

63. (New) An electronic commerce system incorporating an authentication system according to claim 49.

64. (New) An electronic voting system incorporating an authentication system according to claim 49.

65. (New) A method of transmitting a message via a mobile telecommunications network from a sender's device to a user's terminal, wherein

the user is required to acknowledge receipt of said message in a predetermined way;

an acknowledgement message is subsequently transmitted to the sender of said message;

said user is required to authenticate himself by providing authentication data; and a central authentication system verifies the user's authentication; and wherein

at least a portion of the text message is encrypted by the sender's device before transmission and decrypted by the receiving terminal before display, the text message comprising a first portion including the body of said message and a second portion containing encryption data used for encryption of said body and required for decryption of data included in said body.

66.   A method according to claim 65 wherein said user's terminal automatically generates said acknowledgement message upon supply of said authentication data and/or response data.

67.   (New) A method according to claim 65 wherein said message or a portion thereof is only displayed to the receiving user if the receiving user provides a valid authentication.

68.   (New) A method according to claim 65 wherein said second portion is unencrypted.

69.   (New) A method according to claim 65 wherein authentication data provided by the receiving user and/or response data to said message are encrypted using said encryption data.

70.   (New) A method according to claim 65 wherein said first portion of said text message is encrypted using a private/public key pair, wherein said public

key is valid only for a predetermined number of text messages and wherein said

public key is transmitted in said second portion of said text message.

71.   (New) A method according to claim 65, wherein said encryption

data are valid only for a single communication between the sender and the

receiving user, said communication comprising said message and a response to

said message.

72.   (New) A method according to claim 65 wherein said encryption

requires further encryption data stored in the sender's device.

73.   (New) A method according to claim 65 wherein said decryption

requires further encryption data stored in the receiving terminal.

74.   (New) A method according to claim 72 wherein said further

encryption data is a public key transmitted in a text message, which is transmitted

prior to said text message.

75.   (New) A method according to claim 65 wherein at least a portion of

said message and/or response message to said message is automatically deleted

after a predetermined time period from said mobile terminal.

76.   (New) A method according to claim 65 wherein authentication data

are used for encryption and decryption of said portion of said message.

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77.   (New) A method according to claim 65 wherein conventional short message protocols and software applications running on the communications devices are used to implement the method.

78.   (New) A method according to claim 65 wherein said message is a SMS message according to the GSM standard.

79.   (New) A method according to claim 65 wherein in said sender's device and in said receiving user's terminal a transaction reference counter is implemented and wherein each of said transaction reference counters is incremented if a message is successfully received.

80.   (New) A method according to claim 79 wherein a transaction reference is included in every message transmitter from the receiving user to the sender.

81.   (New) A method according to claim 80 wherein said sender compares the received transaction reference with its transaction reference counter and the sender only responds if the received transaction reference matches the sender's transaction reference counter.

82. (New) An electronic commerce system incorporating a method of transmitting a message via a mobile telecommunications network according to claim 65.

83. (New) An electronic voting system incorporating a method of transmitting a message via a mobile telecommunications network according to claim 65.

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